

INSIDE TRACKS



SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

During a career spanning nearly two decades I have had the opportunity to work in every corner of this beautiful and resource-rich state. A few months ago, I reached the pinnacle of my career, landing in Region One! Now my family and I are eager to become "bonafide" residents of this impressive "niche" of Montana. Being keenly aware of our heritage "east of the divide," we are doing our best to remain relatively obscure, attempting to fit in with the locals. The problem is, we are having difficulty defining exactly what "local" is. Observations I have made of northwest Montanans include:

- Like elsewhere across Montana the people here are fiercely independent.
- There seems to be more organized groups here than anywhere else in the world!
- Often the organized groups appear to be on opposite ends of the political and ideological spectrum on many issues.
- There is the perception that fishing and hunting aren't what they once were.
- "Bureaucrat bashing" is a popular pastime, but here it is practiced with zeal.
- Northwest Montana is changing rapidly.

If I have missed a few or am off base on others, please be kind. Perhaps my assessments, too, will change with time.

My recent move has provided me incentive to mull agency goals and objectives. Agency direction can be simply stated: to protect and preserve Montana's unique and diverse resources while providing for recreational opportunity and public use of these resources. Yet, achieving these goals is not always easy. It can be a recipe for conflict or an opportunity for creative and adaptive management.

Given some of the views of the people in northwestern Montana, I see some real challenges ahead. While my staff cannot possibly satisfy all parties on the many contentious issues we face, I have asked them to never be guilty of not listening to the people we serve, the unique and very inter-



Region One Supervisor,
Dan Vincent, second from left.

esting individuals that live in northwestern Montana.

My staff and I offer this first issue of *Inside Tracks* for your reading pleasure. We sincerely hope you enjoy it. We would appreciate your opinion on items that could be covered in future issues.

STATE PARK NEWS

Lots of concrete and a lot less trees are the things first noticed at **Finley Point**. The reconstruction of the mooring facility is well underway. The final result? An 18 slot mooring facility and a 16 site campground. Included is a camp site, restroom, and mooring slip that is designed to be handicapped accessible. Campsites will be rented with a mooring slip for \$13.00 per night. In the future, plans include electrical and water hookups. Long-term plans may include a boat dump station and picnic shelter.

A wider entry road and large turnaround are the new developments at **Yellow Bay**. This site will be designed and marketed with the tent camper in mind. The lower loop road has been eliminated due to erosion and deterioration of the road. The upper loop road will be used for tent camping. Increased boat trailer parking and an enlarged turnaround area near the boat ramp will finish this project.

Repairs on the boat dock at **Elmo** have been completed. This site is complete with showers. This summer the restroom will be made handicapped accessible.

At **Lake Mary Ronan** an extension has been placed on the boat ramp. This extension of 8 feet should enable the public to launch much more efficiently. If you use the ramp, let us know what you think.

At **Logan State Park**, on Middle Thompson Lake, we will continue the facelift begun last year. New tables and grills, extended and leveled parking pads, and an extended boat trailer parking lot are in the works.

A new capital project is in the planning state for **Smith Lake**. A new dock, parking lot improvements, and handicapped latrine are the main features of this project. This project will probably begin construction next spring.

Capital projects at **Teakettle Fishing Access Site** in Columbia Falls and at **Woods Bay Fishing Access Site** near Bigfork are under construction. These projects consist of improving the roads, and providing for handicapped accessibility.

Funding has been provided by the 1991 legislature for RV dump stations in State Parks, and for boat dump stations around Flathead Lake. We are considering dump stations at **Elmo** and **Whitefish**, and boat dump stations at **Elmo**, **Finley**, and **Wayfarers**. Let us know if these sites will meet your needs, or if other sites would be more suitable.

Welcome Summer! We look forward to serving you.

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INTERVIEW - K.L. COOL

We interviewed Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director K.L. Cool in Kalispell. Cool assumed his duties as director in 1989.

EDITOR: HAS THE JOB BEEN DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU EXPECTED?

COOL: There have been some surprises. I've found the Department and its people more receptive to new ideas, image, and organizational change than I expected. Some components of this have been astonishing to me.

If I had to list my greatest surprise, it would be the response of the Enforcement Division. They have embraced the idea that you treat sportsmen like friends, landowners like partners, and use the powers given to the Department through law to deal strongly with those who would steal or commercialize our wild resources.

We've made a number of changes that I feel are progressive. I feel that change is good; an agency that doesn't change is in decay. The Department has shown that it recognizes the environment it's working in and it is responsive to changing conditions.

EDITOR: DID YOU EXPECT THE JOB TO REQUIRE AS MUCH TIME AS IT HAS?

COOL: I underestimated the time commitment. I did not realize the number of national issues that Fish, Wildlife and Parks is involved in. I left a state agency where national issues were a rarity and moved to an agency where they are a normal course of business. I find that to be satisfied I'm doing the job right, I need to spend a large amount of my time and energy.

I feel positive about the amount of time I've spent, though. I think it has paid off in the 1991 legislative session and in the general way our agency is perceived in state government.

EDITOR: A LOT OF PEOPLE DESCRIBE YOU AS A WORKAHOLIC, A PERSON WHO WORKS 12 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. PEOPLE SAY YOU WRITE SPEECHES AND MAKE NOTES ON TOILET PAPER WHEN YOU'RE IN THE BATHROOM. ANY TRUTH TO THOSE CLAIMS?

COOL: I write speeches in the bathroom, but I don't use toilet paper, I use tablet paper. That part is true. I frequently wake up in the middle of the night, think about a decision I need to make. Sometimes, those thoughts need to be captured. I've found that if I don't write those thoughts down in outline form, I lose them. So I do get up in

**K.L. COOL -
DIRECTOR
FISH,
WILDLIFE &
PARKS**



the middle of the night when someone calls me and tells me I should make this type of commitment. A nice quiet place seems to be in the bathroom, and in that place I don't disturb other people.

I've been accused of being a workaholic before. I don't believe I am. I genuinely enjoy what I do. If anything, I'd describe myself more as a perfectionist. I don't like doing anything less than the very best I can give.

I find great enjoyment in my family. I know that I steal some time from them, I also make sure they know what I'm doing. My family is a sounding board for my ideas and thoughts and they give me objective feedback. I share with them the joys and the infrequent frustrations that accompany a job like this.

The job is demanding. But what I like best about it is the opportunity to see real accomplishments made by our people for the sportsmen and wildlife in our state. Like any job there's a downside, but it's small compared to the upside. It's the best job in the state of Montana, perhaps in the entire field of conservation.

EDITOR: HAS YOUR FAMILY ENJOYED MONTANA?

COOL: My oldest son is in Pre-Med at Carroll College. He's enjoyed it a great deal. He's committed to a career in the medical field and Carroll can provide a better education than he could have gotten where he was before. My younger son is a junior in high school. He had to adjust to moving into a larger school system and a more competitive athletic program, but he enjoys Montana.

We haven't been able to get involved as much in outdoor activities as we were before because of the demands of this job. I hope that will get better. My wife is

beginning a career in real estate, something she's always wanted to do. I think they are learning to like it. It's been an adjustment, leaving the town in South Dakota where they lived for ten years.

EDITOR: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST SATISFYING ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE JOB?

COOL: We have accomplished a lot and it's hard to pick just one. It has been satisfying to be able to design and implement a program that will make us fiscally sound. I feel we now have the funding to maintain the quality and to improve the functions of the Department for a half decade or more.

It was an area where Jim Flynn, who I think did a marvelous job as an administrator, did not accomplish before he left. And in visiting with me, he told me it was something he felt that he left undone. It gives me great satisfaction that we've put the Department on much firmer financial footing than when I arrived. I'd say that as an administrator, that was my most important goal. It is revenue that allows the Department to manage the resources and provide the products.

If that goal would not have been accomplished, it would have been very, very difficult for me to deal with it. But frankly, I realized that we might not succeed. I am very gratified that we were able to move forward in this legislative session. I think our agency swam against the current and moved proactively into better service and bigger business. We are the exception in this legislative session.

EDITOR: WHAT SINGLE ISSUE HAS CAUSED YOU THE MOST FRUSTRATION?

COOL: Without a doubt, bison. Our Department professionals were together on

the approach we needed to take. I felt certain we knew what was in the long-term best interest of the agency and the future of sport hunting. Bison are insignificant in terms of the resources the Department manages, but hunting them has been absolutely devastating to our agency and statewide image. I felt very strongly that we had to remove sport hunting from the control issue.

People who felt that solution to the problem was demanding my resignation or termination were, I won't say malicious, but misinformed. It was extremely frustrating. I did have continuous support from the governor from day one on the bison issue and I think we were vindicated by a very strong vote in the legislature.

The media coverage was unbelievable. It will be, I'm sure, as difficult a personal issue as I will have to deal with in Montana. We survived it, and many people questioned whether it was a survivable issue. It required a great deal of my personal energy and the energy of many people in the Department. I feel that the benefits that come out of the approach we took will not be known for a long time. I think it will be looked at as a significant accomplishment for the future of sport hunting.

EDITOR: HAVE YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT OR FISH SINCE YOU CAME TO MONTANA?

COOL: Absolutely not. It has taken all my time to first understand the administration of the Department, and then design a path to reach where we are today. I recognized that it would take two years to do that. I knew what things I'd have to sacrifice to get here. I did go hunting once, I hunted waterfowl. But hunting, fishing, working in the field with our people, all had to be sacrificed. The only thing I left in my block of time management was an absolute commitment that I would never miss one of my son's football or basketball games, and I never did. In taking this job I felt I owed it to the agency to give up some things.

We really can't let up. Our agency will have to become more and more effective in the courts. The anti-hunting challenge will grow. Our agency has the strong support of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission, the legislature and the Governor. That makes it hard for groups who don't agree to go through those channels. These groups will focus on the court system. Our Department needs to be strengthened in the legal area.

EDITOR: HAS THE JOB CHANGED YOU?

COOL: It's affected my physical abilities. I came here with the ability to run marathons, and now I think I could run a few miles slowly. In the next year I hope to get back my physical conditioning.

Has it changed me? I think so. I think it's given me professional maturity in leading a big business like the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. I've gained confidence in my abilities. It has also changed my view on one thing. There is a hypothesis that new directors experience a six-month honeymoon period, if they are lucky. My belief now is that the only reason that a honeymoon period ends for an agency that is doing its job is that you've not developed the communication with constituents which allows a long term relationship.

EDITOR: DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP BEEN WITH THE GOVERNOR.

COOL: I've worked for four governors, and I can honestly say that I have never enjoyed working with a governor more than with Stan Stephens. When I interviewed for this job, the governor told me that he expected professional management for the Department. I asked him if there were any political considerations, and he said there were none. He was hopeful that he could hire a resource administrator who could improve the Department. He told me that he believed this Department was one of the best in state government, maybe one of the best fish and wildlife agencies in the west. His goal for the Department was for it to be the best in the nation. The other thing he asked me was to do my best to improve landowner/sportsmen/Department relations, which he said was one of the most talked about issues during his campaign for governor.

The governor treats our Department with objectivity. He doesn't hunt or fish. I find that to be quite an advantage. He looks at each issue on a factual basis. The management decisions he has made have been in the best interests of the state. I think the very difficult negotiations with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes was a difficult political situation for this governor. He could have walked away from it. It was highly volatile. He worked with us to develop a memorandum of understanding that may be a model for working with sovereign governments and tribes within the United States. The bison issue is

another example.

The governor is a businessman, a gentleman, and a staunch supporter of the employees and the mission of this Department.

EDITOR: IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY, LOOKING BACK OVER YOUR FIRST TWO YEARS?

COOL: In a position like this, you have to trust your judgment. The agency isn't perfect and it can never stop changing. I think I would do nothing different in terms of the substantive decisions I've made, and they have not all been correct. But if I had to redo them, given the information I had, they would have been done in the same way.

I sometimes wish there were more hours in a day. It's been the most enjoyable and fastest two years of my life.

THE PUBLIC SPEAKS

Recently Supervisor Dan Vincent received a letter regarding the spring grizzly hunt:

Dear Dan,

Just what is the justifiable biological purpose for the spring grizzly hunt? Come on Montana, join the Twentieth Century. Can't you dart a bear, pull a tooth and do all those other invasive procedures to get your data? You're just as bad as Alaska, wildlife misfits who went out and killed animals and counted them after the Exxon Valdez. What a bunch of boneheads.

We'd like to hear your views on Fish, Wildlife and Parks Issues.

Please address letters to:

Editor, Inside Tracks

490 N. Meridian

Kalispell, MT 59901

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Over 1,000 Montana youth between the ages of 12 and 17 are trained each year in bowhunter education and safety. They are taught by 300 dedicated volunteer instructors as part of the national bowhunter education program.

These instructors donate many hours to instill safe bowhunting methods in these future Montana bowhunters. Instructors focus on hunting ethics, recognizing that the future of bowhunting depends on all bowhunters maintaining high standards.

"We are trying to instill in the students the ethics and responsibility needed to be a well rounded sportsman or sportswoman," said Roger Allick, head instructor in the Kalispell area. "I feel that it's my contribution to the sport. I'm involved because I love archery and bowhunting and I want to help others to become better bowhunters."

Allick teaches the Kalispell course with wife Pat, Ken Bullman, Dale Farnes, and Mike Burgess. More than forty students attended the course this spring. One mother and son team attended the course together. A note that the mother wrote about the course speaks for the quality of the instructors:

Dear Roger and Pat,

I just wanted to write and express my appreciation for the fine job that you and all the others did.

I can't tell you how excited Ryan was when we left class last Monday night; he was on cloud nine. He kept thanking me for taking him to the classes; he commented several times on how the instructors couldn't have been any better and he told me that taking the class was the best thing that we'd ever done together. He feels like he knows so much more about hunting than he did a week ago.

Sometimes being a single parent - especially of three boys - can be the pits, but it's people like you, Ken, and the rest of the guys that really help to make it a lot easier.

Thanks again!



KALISPELL BOWHUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS
Foreground - Roger Allick Rear, Left to Right - Mike Burgess -
Pat Allick - Ken Bullman - Dale Farnes



KEN BULLMAN LEADS STUDENTS ON A BLOOD TRAIL



FISHERIES BIOLOGIST BOB DOMROSE RETIRES

After a 30 year career as a fisheries biologist, Bob Domrose retired at the end of March. Domrose began his career with the West Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. He has served as a biologist for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Kalispell since 1964.

Domrose established an effective management program for many area lakes. For example, the harvest of kokanee by anglers at Lake Mary Ronan has risen to about 150,000 fish each year. Many other valley and mountain lake fisheries have thrived under Domrose's management.

His most satisfying accomplishment has been to provide fishing opportunities for the average angler.

Domrose was known for his practical joking around the office. His jokes included: falsifying health records to temporarily worry healthy people; switching spark plug wires on vehicles; and hiding coats,

briefcases and other items.

Domrose plans to spend his time maintaining his house, traveling, fishing, hiking and cycling. He and his wife, Wanda, have raised five children. Recently Bob was asked if he missed the Department. "I miss the people and the field work," he said. "I don't miss the meetings."

LUCK O' THE IRISH

When Bigfork area Warden Mike Quinn left his truck to investigate a report of a mountain lion near Ferndale last summer, he grabbed his shotgun, just in case. That vision proved to be lucky.

A man had called Quinn to report that a lion was stalking his horse. Later, the man's wife called to tell Quinn that the cat was lying in the grass near the house, watching the horse.

"I was walking a trail around the property and I felt the hairs stand up on the back of my head," said Quinn. "I turned around and saw the lion stalking me. I talked to the cat and backed up, hoping I wouldn't have to shoot it."

The cat kept coming, so Quinn fired his handgun into the dirt on one side of the animal. "When I did that it was like firing the starter gun at the Olympics," said Quinn. The lion charged.

Quinn aimed his shotgun and fired as the cat lunged at him. The first round in the chamber was a slug, rather than buckshot which would have given more room for an aiming error. Luckily, the slug hit the cat in the brisket, penetrated the body, and broke the animal's rear leg. The cat's momentum carried him past Quinn's side. The lion popped into a patch of dog hair lodgepole; Quinn had to hunt it down to dispatch it.

"I really wasn't scared until it was over," said Quinn. "It was pure reaction. Afterwards, I realized it would have been a good fight if I'd missed the shot."

Of nearly pure Irish descent, Michael Patrick Quinn continues the proud tradition of the Irish cop. Quinn began his career as a warden 18 years ago in Libby, Montana. A teacher, Quinn became friends with local Department warden Gary Burke who inspired him to go into law enforcement. "I'd be teaching, looking out the window, and wish I was doing what Gary was doing," said Quinn. Over the next 15 years, Quinn served as warden in Glendive, Anaconda, the Blackfoot corridor, and Deerlodge.

In 1988, Quinn was appointed warden captain for FWP Region Six in Glendive. But the captain's position didn't suit him.

"I found myself cemented to the desk," said Quinn. "When the Bigfork warden district opened up, I said the hell with it and went back to the field."

Quinn hasn't regretted his decision. He has high regard for the busy Bigfork district with its lakes, streams, backcountry and diverse wildlife. The Bigfork district



covers about 1,000 square miles, yet is considered small for a Montana warden district. Quinn has seen virtually all of it.

One of the best parts of the job for Quinn is meeting the sportsmen and sportswomen around the district. "We're there to help and inform. The great majority of people out there are honest and just having a good time. That's great to see. A very small percentage of my contacts are with violators."

Quinn has made many important cases during his three years on the Bigfork district. He has ticketed violators for spotlighting deer, overlimits of fish and waterfowl, fishing and hunting out of season, tagging violations and many others. One of his favorite activities is going where people may least expect to see a game warden.

"I love to surprise people," said Quinn. "Once I hiked into Cold Lakes (in the Mission Mountain Wilderness) and checked 37 people fishing for cutthroat trout. I saw people who looked as if they were ready to snag some spawning trout, but they saw me first."

Once, Quinn noticed a car parked by the trailhead for Grey Wolf Lake, in the Mission Mountain Wilderness. He hiked the eight to ten miles into the lake and had a good visit with an angler who will probably never forget seeing a warden on top of the Mission divide.

During Quinn's career as a warden he has always had a dog for companionship. One dog, Ted, barked if a hunter's truck held game, and remained silent if the truck was empty. "He helped me find more than one animal, all hidden under a load of wood," said Quinn. Paddy, the golden retriever he now owns, hasn't learned that technique yet, but she's working on it.

Quinn has found that serving as a

game warden consumes most of his time. "The only bad thing about this job is that I never get time to hunt and fish. I'll usually get out a few days in the fall if I'm lucky."

Like most wardens, Quinn was attracted to the job because it offered independence. "I love the freedom and variety," he said. "I'm outdoors and I work the hours I want to work. I wouldn't want to do anything else."

SOUTH FORK MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION

The Montana Fish and Game Commission on May 10 approved the fisheries management plan for the South Fork Flathead drainage. The plan results from a cooperative effort between the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the U.S. Forest Service, and a citizen committee. Extensive public involvement, including written comment, a citizen advisory group, and an open house helped shape the goals, objectives and management actions outlined in the plan.

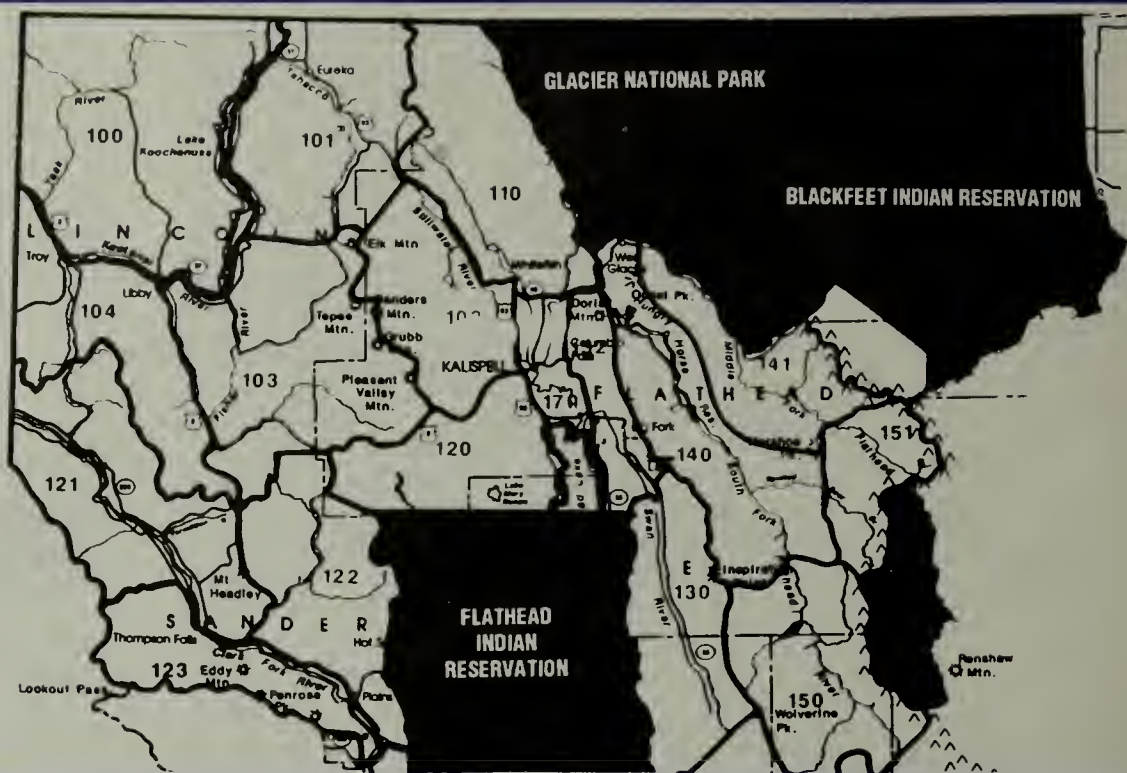
The plan outlines management actions needed to increase the size of westslope cutthroat trout in the South Fork Flathead River, and to increase the numbers and size of westslope cutthroat in Hungry Horse Reservoir. Management actions include:

- Increased enforcement of angling regulations, particularly on tributaries around Hungry Horse Reservoir;
- Stepped-up efforts to educate anglers on catch and release techniques and in reporting of observed violations;
- Proposed extension of wilderness limits (three fish) to Hungry Horse Reservoir in the tentative fishing regulations process this fall;
- Aggressive efforts to pursue water level improvements for Hungry Horse Reservoir and to improve shoreline fish habitat;
- Maintenance of the present wilderness regulations (three trout under 12 inches daily and in possession) and the catch and release section on the South Fork Flathead River.

These management actions should also achieve the goals set forth in the plan for bull trout.

For a copy of the plan, call the Region One office of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 752-5501.

REGION 1



Inside Tracks is published by Region One of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks:

Dan Vincent, Supervisor
Jim Cross, Wildlife Manager
Jim Vashro, Fisheries Manager
Dave Conklin, Parks Manager
Ed Kelly, Warden Captain
John Fraley, Information Officer, Newsletter Editor

Contributors:

Bev Veneziano (Newsletter Logo) Marty Watkins

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**FOR A FREE SUBSCRIPTION
WRITE TO:**

INSIDE TRACKS
490 N. Meridian
Kalispell, MT 59901

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490 N. MERIDIAN
KALISPELL, MT 59901

